



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/673,348

09/30/2003

Atsushi Fukui

SNY-040

3442

20374

7590

05/05/2006

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK
SUITE 710
900 17TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

MARTIN, ANGELA J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1745

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,348

Applicant(s)

FUKUI ET AL.

Examiner

Angela J. Martin

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/27/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the Remarks filed on September 27, 2005. The Applicant filed a terminal disclaimer, an English translation of priority document JP 2002-285742, copy of IDS, Form-1449 and return receipt postcard. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement was officially stamped as September 27, 2005, but the correct date, which the Applicant provided a return receipt postcard, should have the filing date of September 30, 2003. Therefore a new ground(s) of rejection is presented in this Office action, and the Final Rejection of 12/15/05, is rescinded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori, JP 2000-012088.

Rejection of claims 1-10 drawn to a negative electrode; claims 11-14 drawn to a method of making the negative electrode; claims 15 and 16 drawn to a lithium secondary battery.

Mori teaches a negative electrode for a lithium secondary battery prepared by forming an active material layer of silicon (sect. abstract) and a binder on a current

Art Unit: 1745

collector comprising an electrically conductive metal foil (sect. 0005, 0007), and sintering the layer on the collector under a non-oxidizing atmosphere (sect. 0059) , wherein the active material particles are primary particles having a mean diameter of 0.01-100 micrometers (sect. 0005), the particles are dispersed uniformly in the active material layer, and the particles and binder are uniformly mixed and distributed (sect. 0059). It teaches the active material is silicon (abstract). It teaches a surface roughness of the collector is 0.03 -1 micrometer (abstract). It teaches the current collector is a copper foil (sect. 0008). It teaches the current collector is an electrolytic copper foil (sect. 0008). It teaches an electrically conductive powder is mixed in the active material layer (sect. 0021). It teaches a binder (0031). It teaches the binder remains after sintering (sect. 0059). It teaches the binder remains after heat treatment (sect. 0059). It teaches a method for preparing a negative electrode for a lithium secondary battery comprising preparing a slurry comprising active material in a binder solution, wherein the active material is silicon having an average diameter of primary particles of 0.01-100 micrometers and coating the slurry on a current collector comprising metal foil to form active material layer, and sintering layer on collector under a non-oxidizing atmosphere (sect. 0059). It teaches the active material layer is press rolled together with the collector before sintering (sect. 0039). It teaches a lithium secondary battery comprising a negative electrode, a positive electrode, and a nonaqueous electrolyte (abstract).

Thus, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because although the mean diameter of the primary particles does not recite "a mean diameter of not greater than 1 μm ," it does

Art Unit: 1745

teach a mean diameter of 0.01-100 μm , which overlaps the claimed range. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adjust the size of the primary particles, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Akagi et al., JP 11-339777, teach a secondary battery comprising a negative electrode, which includes silicon. Fukui et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2003/0235762 A1, teaches a negative electrode for a lithium secondary battery comprising a negative electrode, which includes silicon.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to above claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

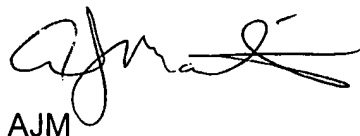
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-

Art Unit: 1745

1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AJM